

SECTION I—SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the specification as shown below:

1. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2A illustrates the construction and internal details of a prior art polarization-maintaining optical isolator 200. The isolator 200 has an input end 202, and an output end 204. In the embodiment shown, light propagating through the isolator generally travels along a path 207 as it traverses several components within the isolator 200. The isolator 200 comprises a two-stage rotator coupled to a phase retardation plate 220, which in this embodiment is a half wave ($\lambda/2$) plate. The first stage of the two-stage rotator comprises a first Faraday rotator 212 sandwiched between a first polarizer 210 and a second polarizer 214. Similarly, the second stage of the two-stage rotator comprises a second Faraday rotator 216 sandwiched between the second polarizer 214 and a third polarizer 218. Following the second polarizer 218, the ~~half-wave phase~~ retardation plate (also known as a half wave plate) is positioned just prior to the output 204 of the isolator.

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